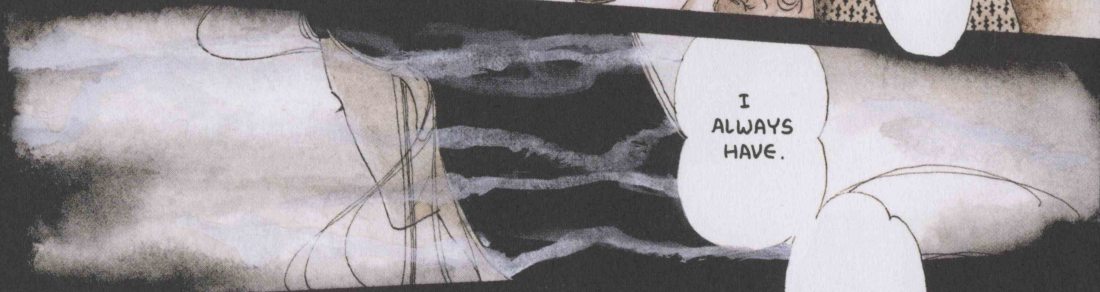
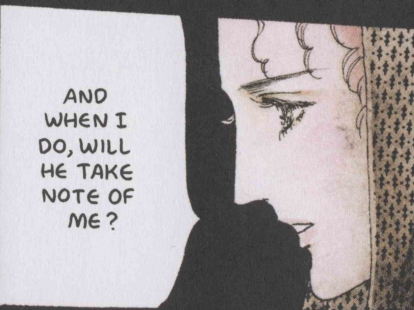
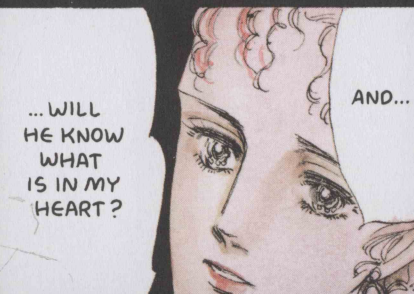
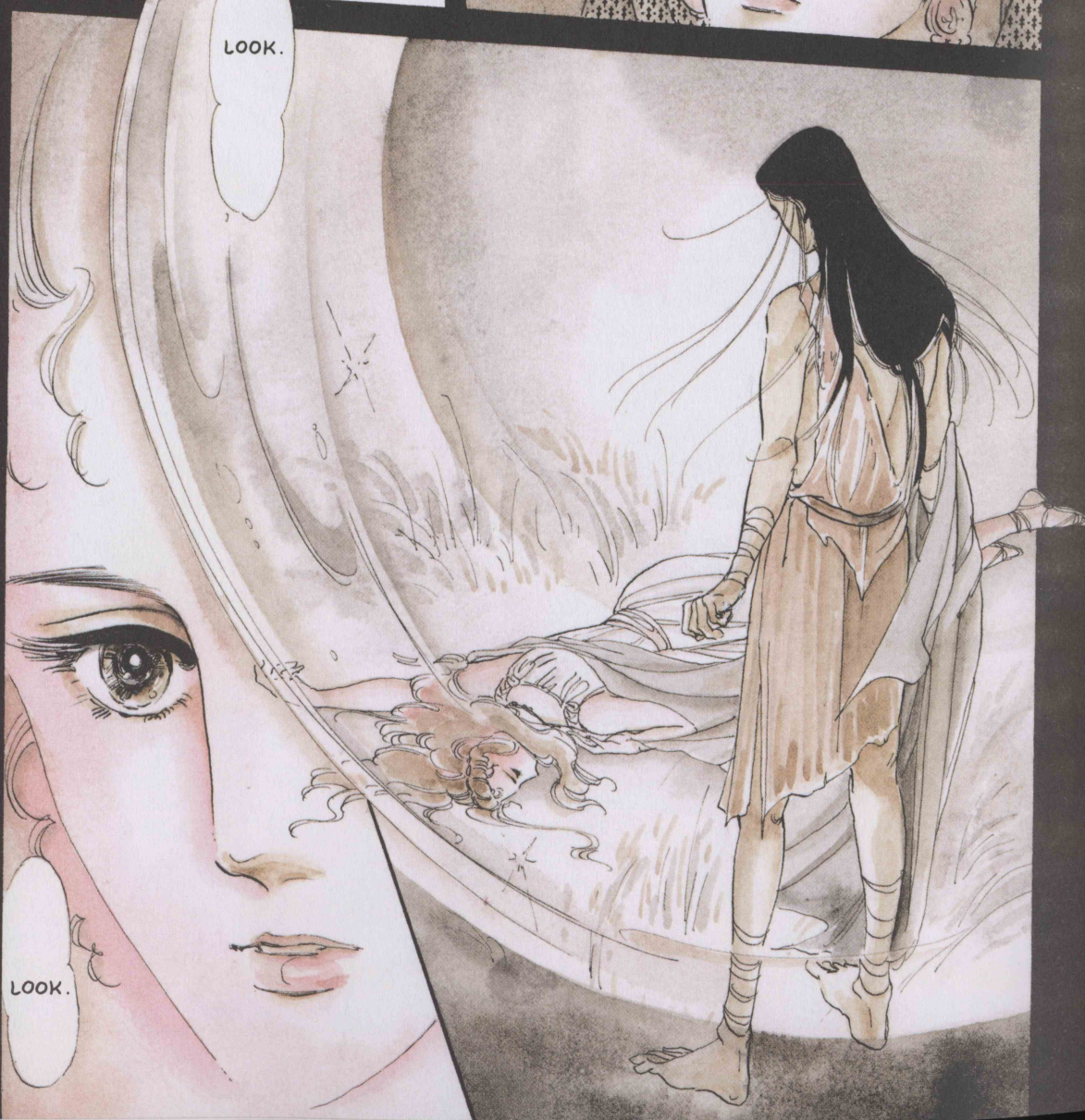
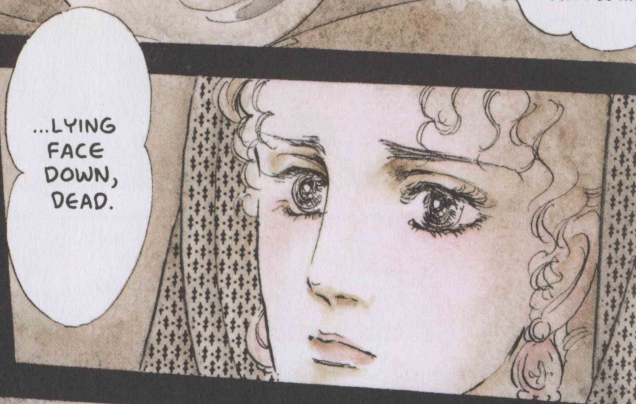
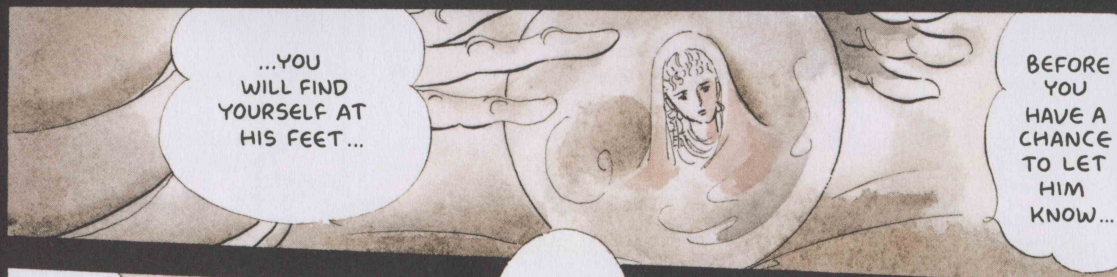
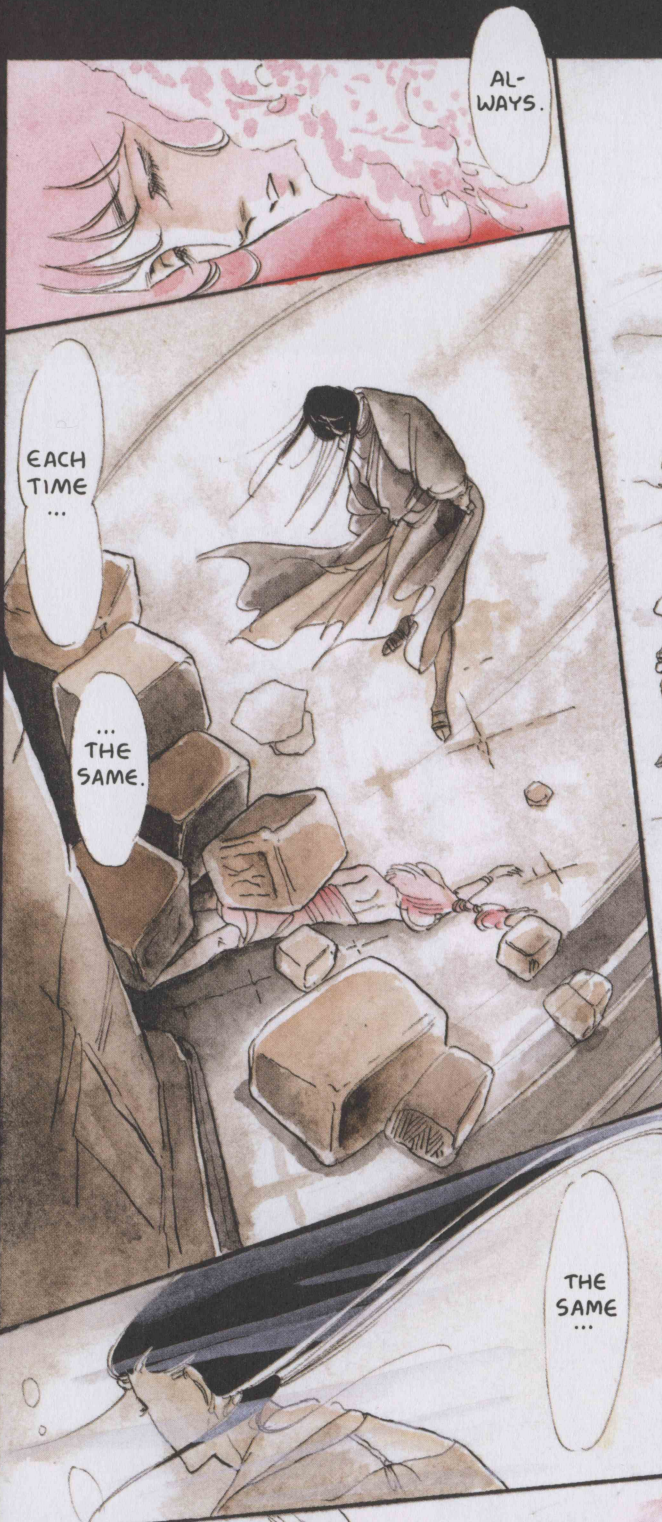
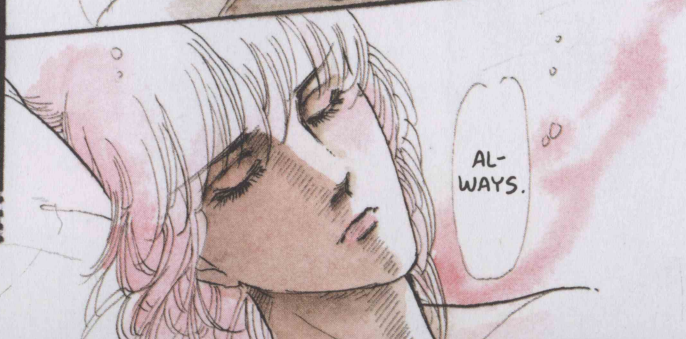
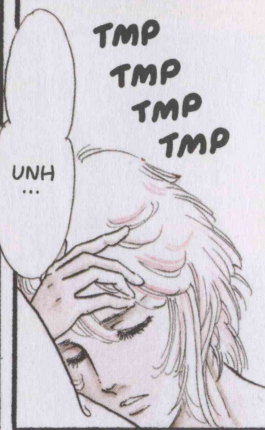
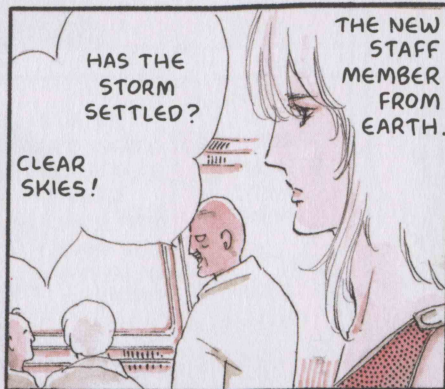
A
DRUNKEN
DREAM

I SEE HIM IN MY DREAMS.
I ALWAYS HAVE.
HE IS ALWAYS THERE.
PLEASE USE YOUR GIFTS.
TELL ME WHO HE IS.
TELL ME.
SHALL I EVER MEET HIM?
YOU SHALL.
AND WHEN I DO, WILL HE TAKE NOTE OF ME?
HE WILL NOT KNOW YOU.
AND...
...WILL HE KNOW WHAT IS IN MY HEART?

BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO LET HIM KNOW...
...YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF AT HIS FEET...
...LYING FACE DOWN, DEAD.
INDEED...
...IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THUS.
LOOK.
LOOK.
LOOK.

IT IS ALWAYS THUS.
AL-WAYS.
EACH TIME ...
... THE SAME.
THE SAME ...
AL-WAYS.

LEM, EVERYONE ELSE IS ALREADY DOWN-STAIRS.
YES, SIR?
YAWN

TMP TMP TMP TMP
UNH...
LEM. DR. PALMINO.
JUST WHEN I WAS TRIPPING...
YEAH. HOLD ON.

THE NEW STAFF MEMBER FROM EARTH.
HAS THE STORM SETTLED?
CLEAR SKIES!

LET'S WATCH OUR NEW GUEST ARRIVE ON THE MONITOR.
GUEST?
OH, RIGHT.

WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S AN ODD ONE.
WHO ELSE WOULD COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO IO.
DR. GADAN SAFAASH! WELCOME!
I WAS EXPECTING SOMEONE OLDER.
I LOOK FORWARD TO MY YEAR HERE.
THE IO RESEARCH CENTER IS ONE BIG SIXTY-MEMBER FAMILY. NO FORMALITIES.

LEM!
YAWN
THIS IS OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER, DR. SAFAASH.
DR. SAFAASH, THIS IS--

...LEM PALIMINO.
YOU ARE LEM?
WHAT, YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
...
NO.
I WAS BORN ON THE MOON AND RAISED ON MARS.
I DON'T KNOW ANY NATIVE-BORN TER-RANS.
SO YOUNG...
...TO HAVE A DOCTOR-ATE.
IT'S HIM.
THE MAN FROM MY DREAMS.

LEM'S ECCEN-TRIC, BUT HE'S A GOOD KID.
HE'S BEEN HERE FOUR YEARS NOW.
IS THAT SO? HE HAS SUCH A...
...DELICATE BUILD. IS IT BECAUSE HE IS MOON-BORN?

YES, WELL. IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE HERE IN OUR LITTLE FAMILY...
...THAT WHILE LEM MANI-FESTS AS MALE...
...HE IN FACT HAS XX CHROMO-SOMES.

SYSTEM III, LONGITUDE NINETY DEGREES.

CUTTING MAGNET-IC LINE. PICKING UP DECA-METRIC RADIA-TION.
DOCTOR, YOU CAN SEE QUITE AN AURORA FROM THE VERANDA.

MAY I JOIN YOU, DR PALMINO?
OH, IT'S YOU. COME ON IN.

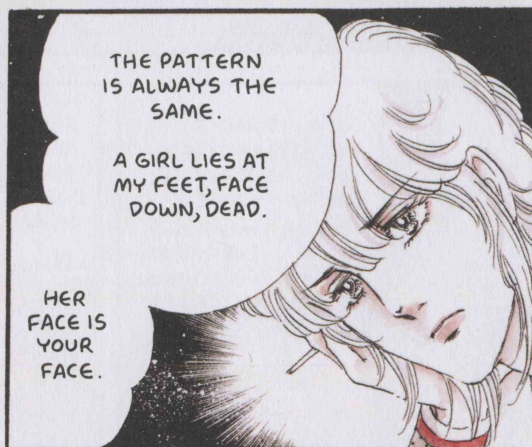
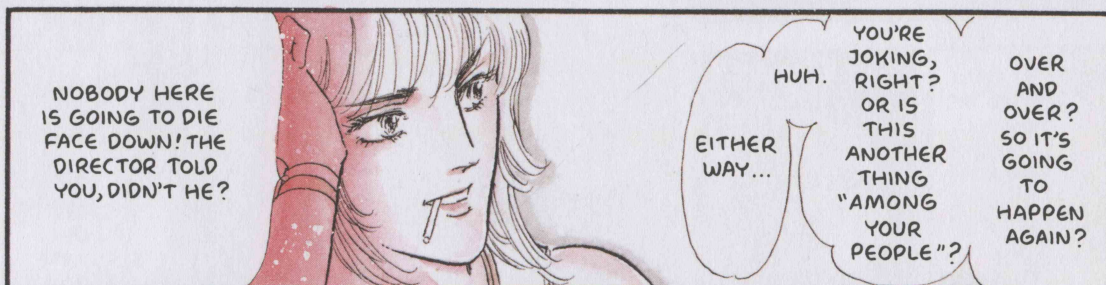
THIS IS WHY I NEVER GET TIRED OF IO, EVEN AFTER FOUR YEARS.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT?
IT IS MAG-NIFI-CENT.

PHTT! PHTT!

THAT STATIC OF YOURS IS PRETTY MAGNIFI-CENT, TOO.

AMONG MY PEOPLE, THE ELDEST CHILD IS FORBIDDEN TO CUT HIS OR HER HAIR, IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE SPIRITUAL POWER.
HUH? YOU **ARE** A SCIENTIST, AREN'T YOU?
AND AMONG MY PEOPLE, I AM ALSO A PRIEST.

I **KNOW** YOU, LEM.
I HAVE MET YOU MANY TIMES.

IN MY DREAMS.
HM...? SO...?
YOU HAVE THE SAME DREAMS. YOU RECOGNIZED ME.
LEM, IT IS NO DREAM. THESE ARE PAST MEMORIES, WOVEN WITHIN ME.
YOU AND I ARE ENDLESSLY REBORN, EXPERIENCING THE SAME EVENTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

THE PATTERN IS ALWAYS THE SAME.
A GIRL LIES AT MY FEET, FACE DOWN, DEAD.
HER FACE IS YOUR FACE.

OVER AND OVER? SO IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN?
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT? OR IS THIS ANOTHER THING "AMONG YOUR PEOPLE"?
HUH.
EITHER WAY...
NOBODY HERE IS GOING TO DIE FACE DOWN! THE DIRECTOR TOLD YOU, DIDN'T HE?

I'M A FREAKIN' HERMAPHRODITE. HOW COULD I BE THAT "GIRL" OF YOURS?
HA HA HA HA
I HOPE...
...YOU ARE RIGHT.
HA! TRUST ME! I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DYING ANYTIME SOON!

RIGHT. SURVEY COMPLETE. LET'S HEAD HOME, DOCTOR.

I'M RE-LIEVED.
ME TOO. YOUR CRAZY TALK HAS MADE ME JUMPY.

LEM, I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING BACK IN TIME IN MY DREAMS.
HUH? BACK IN TIME? WHY?

I BELIEVE IF I CAN REACH THE BEGINNING, I CAN LEARN THE CAUSE.
I THINK SOME KIND OF SCHOCK HAS CREATED A WOUND IN THE SPACE-TIME YOU AND I OCCUPY, FORCING US TO REPEAT THE SAME EXPERIENCE.
SOUNDS LIKE REPETI-TIVE BEHAVIOR.

LIKE SOME KIND OF PSY-CHOLOGICAL TRAUMA IN SPACE-TIME.
WHA--!?
GRK
GDN-N-N-N
D-D-D-D
LEM!!
LEM!
LEM!

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING.
IT'S REALLY BIG THIS TIME.
WELL, IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE CAN LAUNCH THE WHOLE FACILITY INTO SPACE.
HOW'S LEM?
HE'S FINE NOW.
JUST A BUMP.
GADAN, IT LOOKS LIKE THAT REPETITION YOU TALK ABOUT HAS GONE OFF COURSE.
I SEEM TO STILL BE ALIVE.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

YOU SAID SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING.
"TRAUMA IN SPACE-TIME". IF THAT'S TRUE...
...ONE COULD POSTULATE THAT SOMEONE IS TRYING TO HEAL THAT WOUND.
CHANGING YOUR OUTWARD APPEARANCE TO MALE...
...MAKING ME TRAVEL BACK IN TIME IN MY DREAMS TO FIND THE CAUSE.

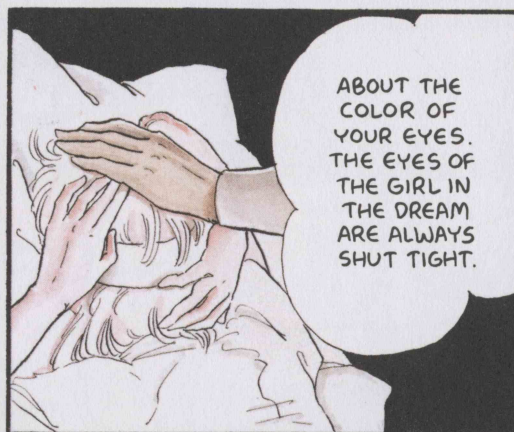
SO...
...YOU AND I ARE THE PRODUCT OF A PSYCHOLOGICALLY ILL SPACE-TIME? HM...

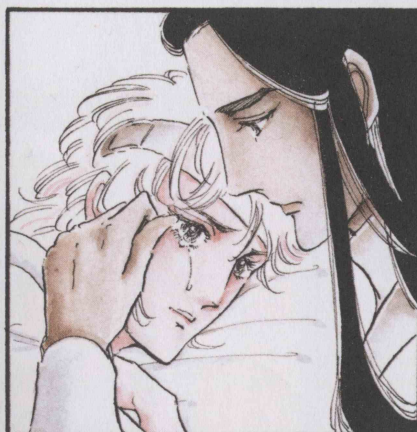
I AM GRATEFUL FOR THESE CHANGES.
IF YOU HAD BEEN NORMALLY FEMALE, YOU MIGHT ALREADY BE LYING FACE-DOWN AT MY FEET.

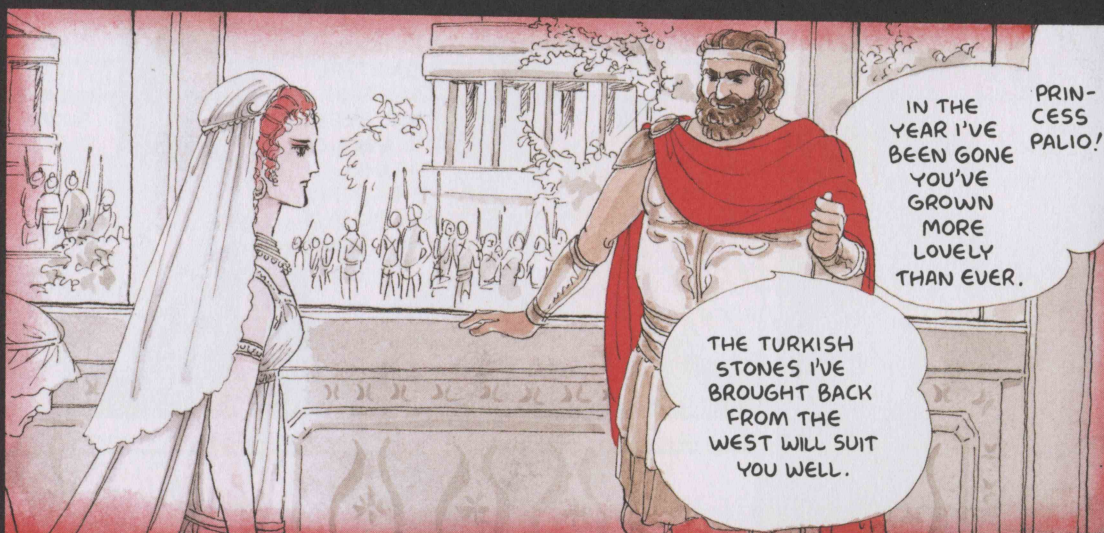
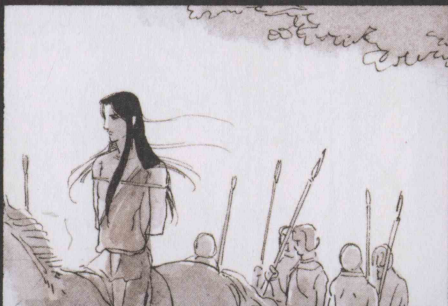
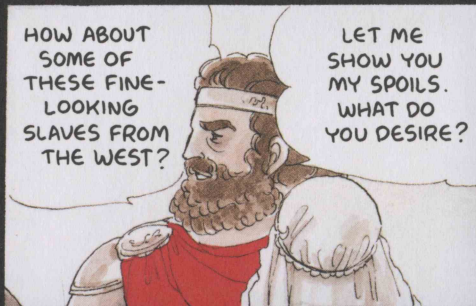
HAH! IF I HAD BEEN A **GIRL**, HUH?

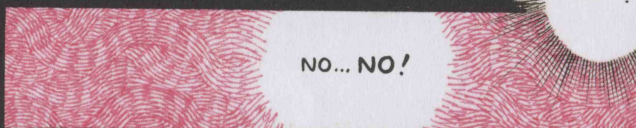
SCREW THIS REPETITION! I'D LIKE TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THIS SPACE-TIME. WHAT THE HELL AM I, ANYWAY!? SOME KIND OF **PAWN!?**
HEY, YOU! GIVE IT A REST, WILL YOU!?

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW. THE GIRL IN THE DREAM IS IN LOVE WITH THE YOUNG MAN. **ALWAYS!**
STOP CLAIMING YOU DON'T KNOW ME AND ACCEPT THIS.

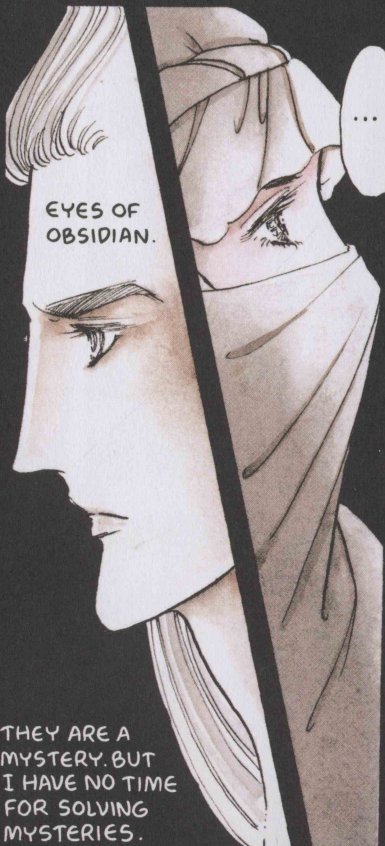
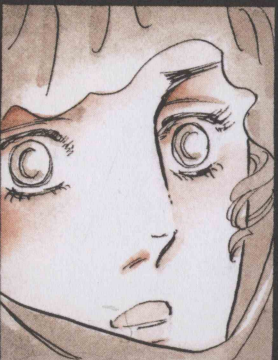
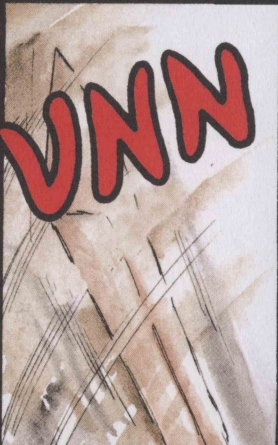
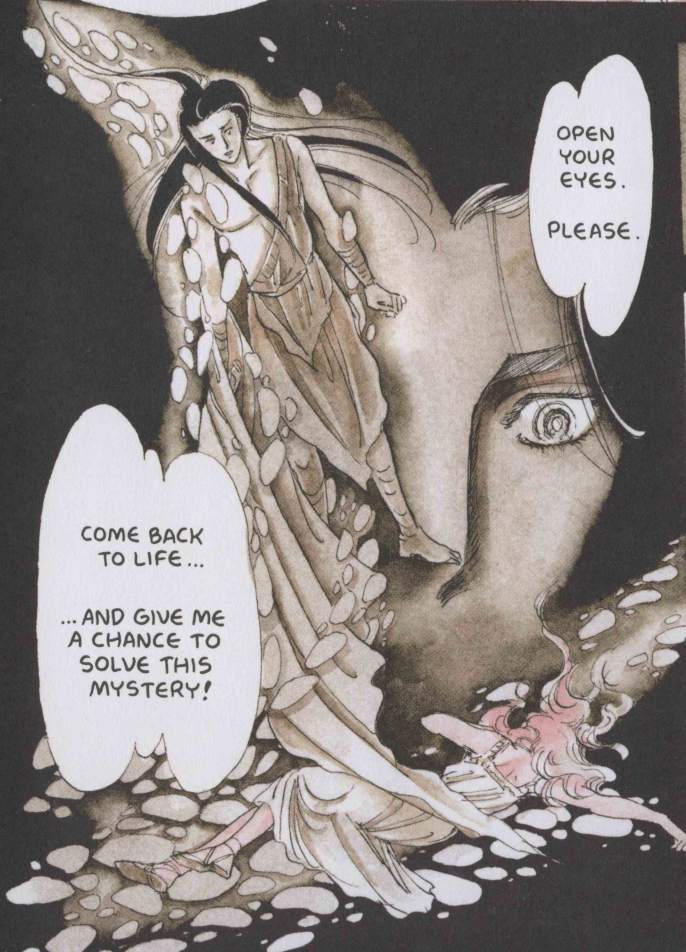
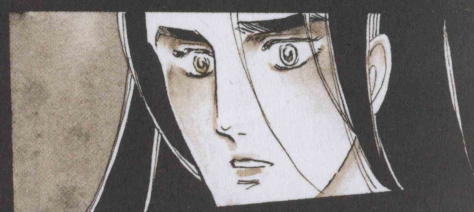
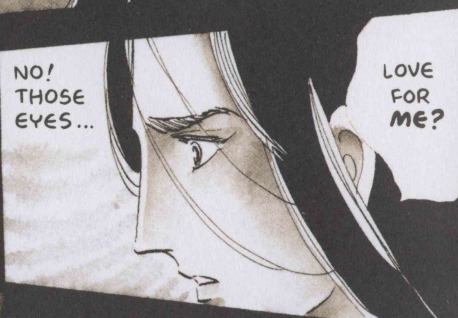
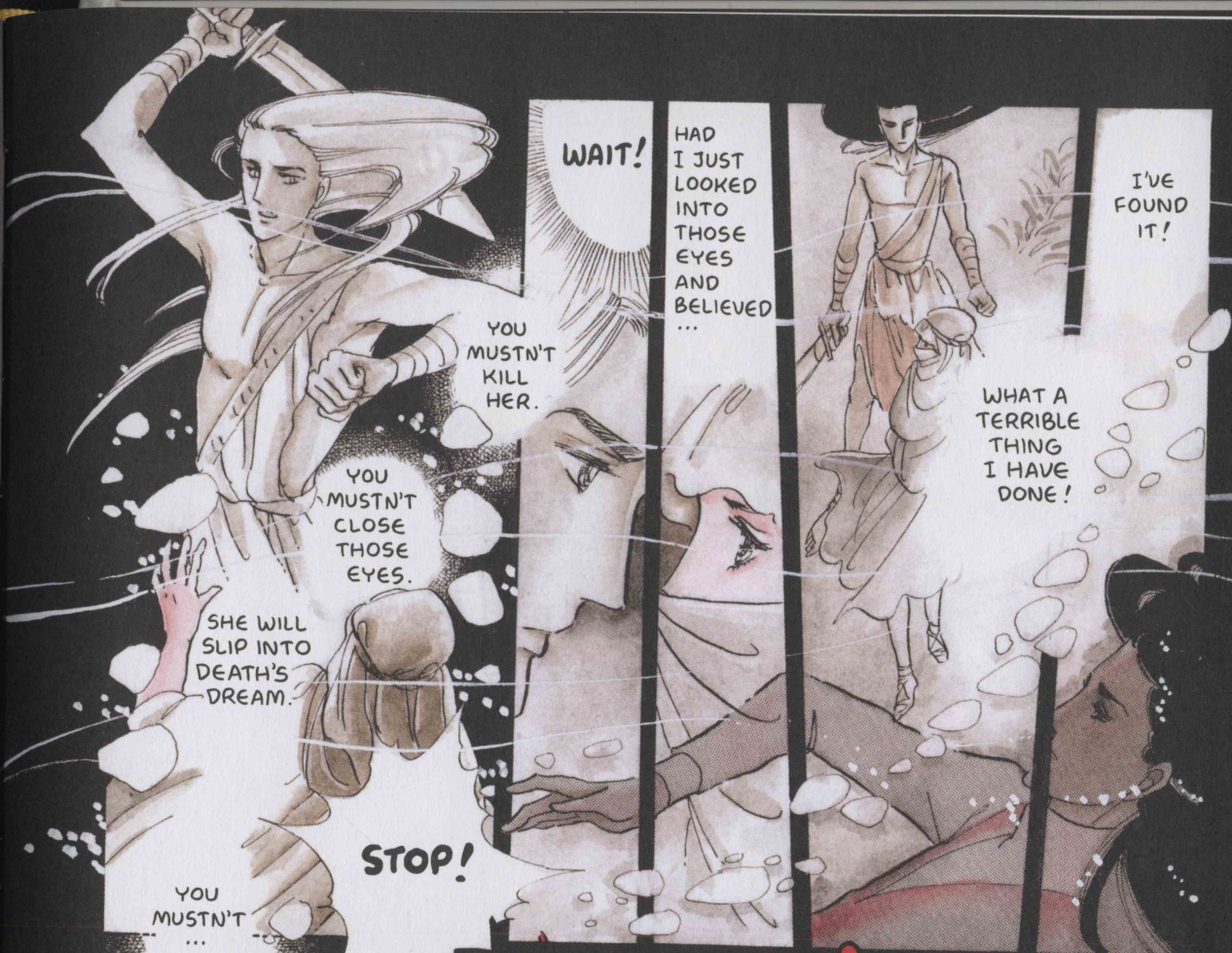
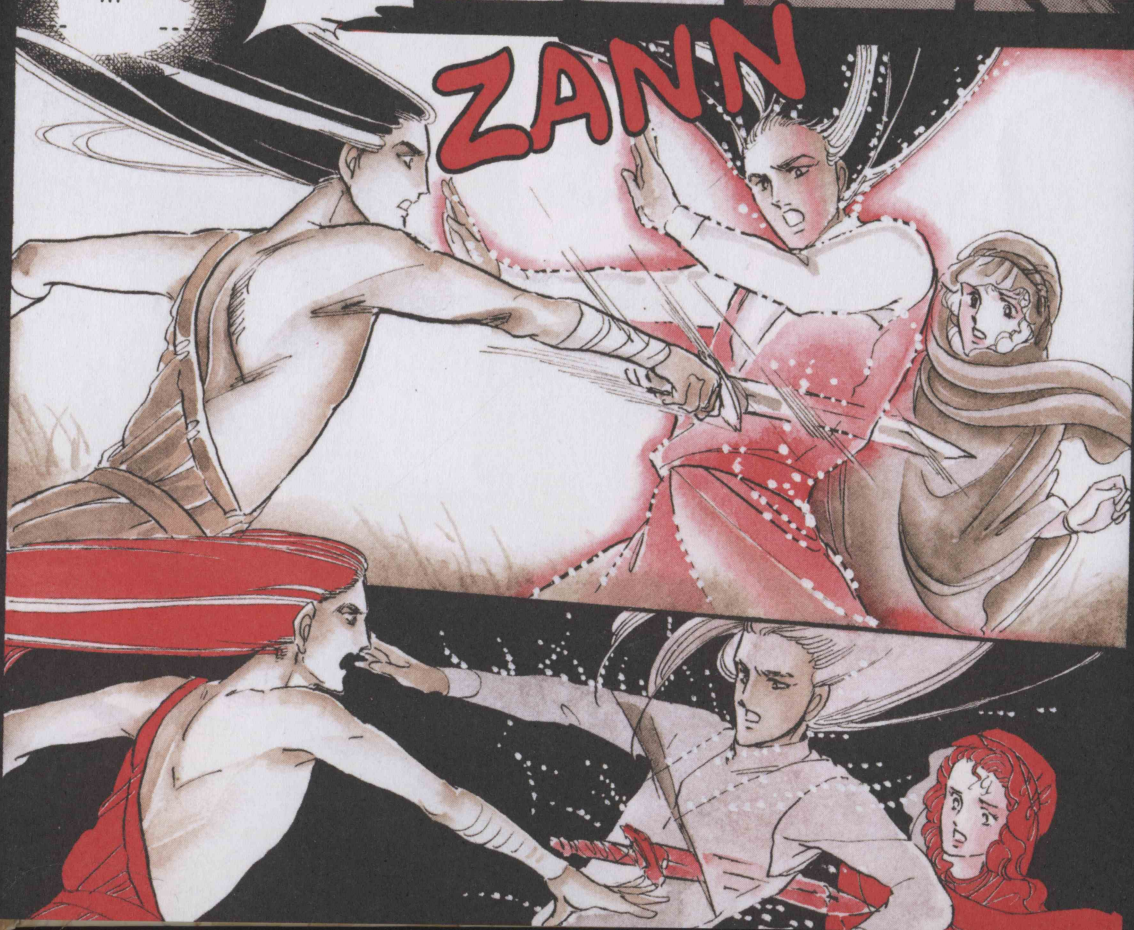
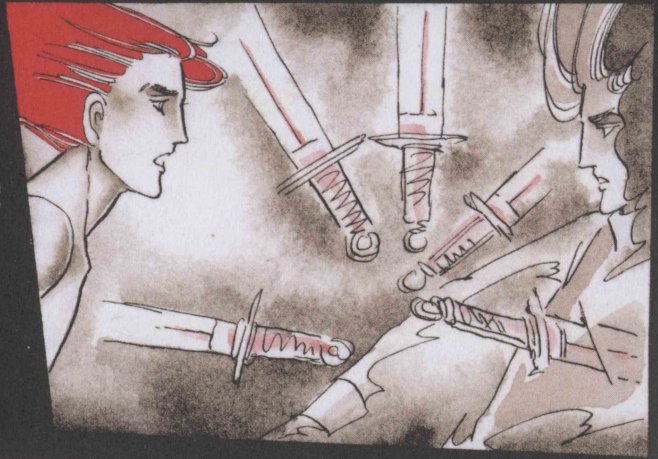
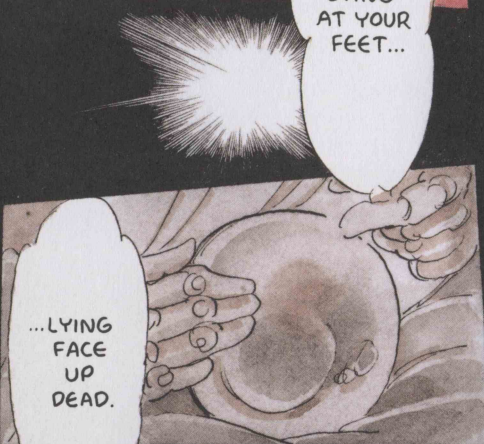
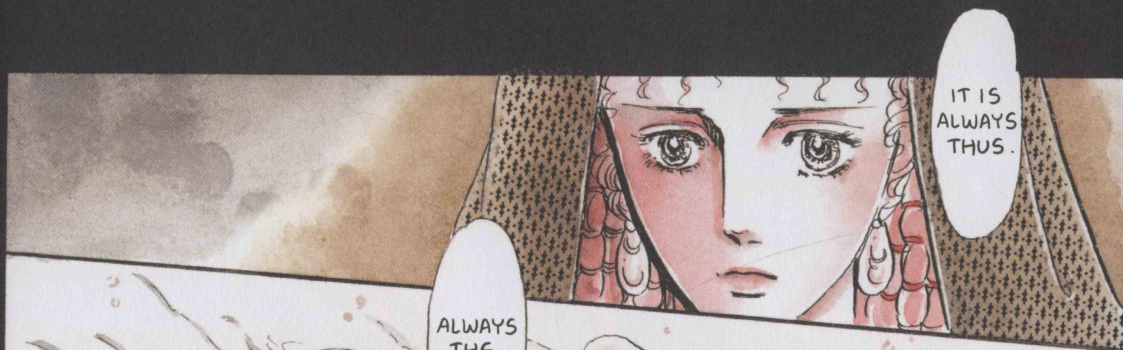
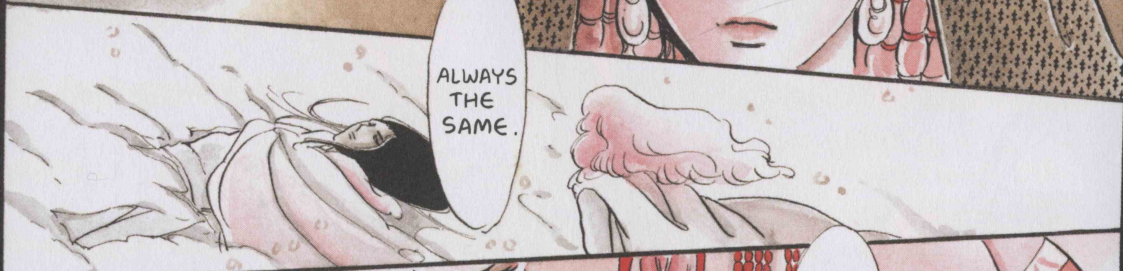
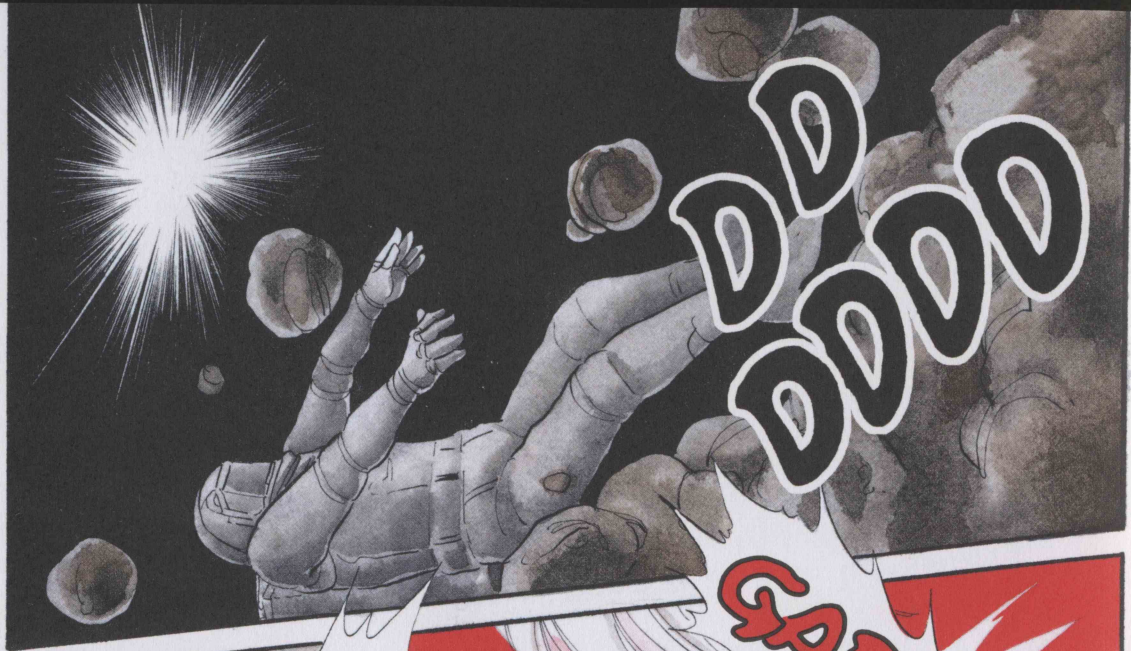
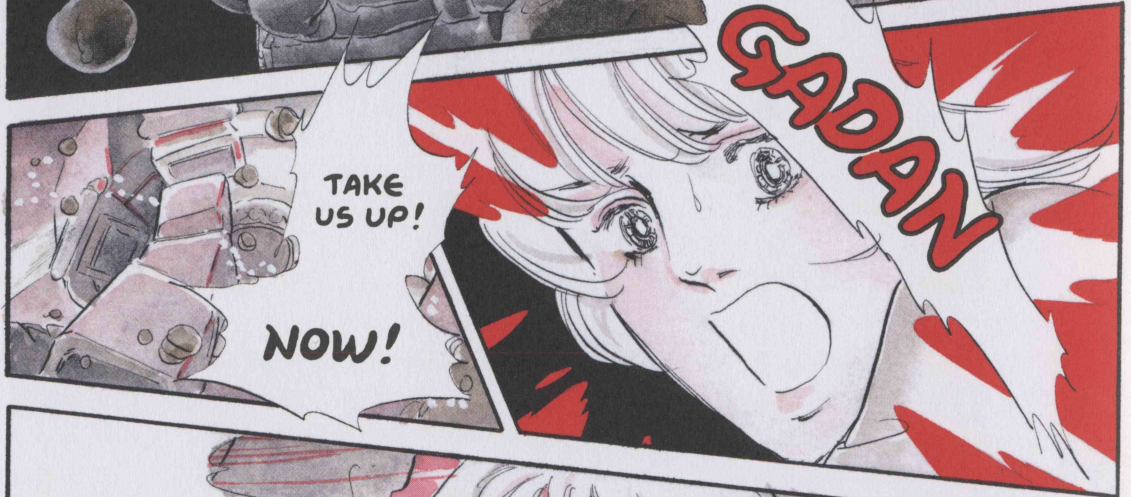
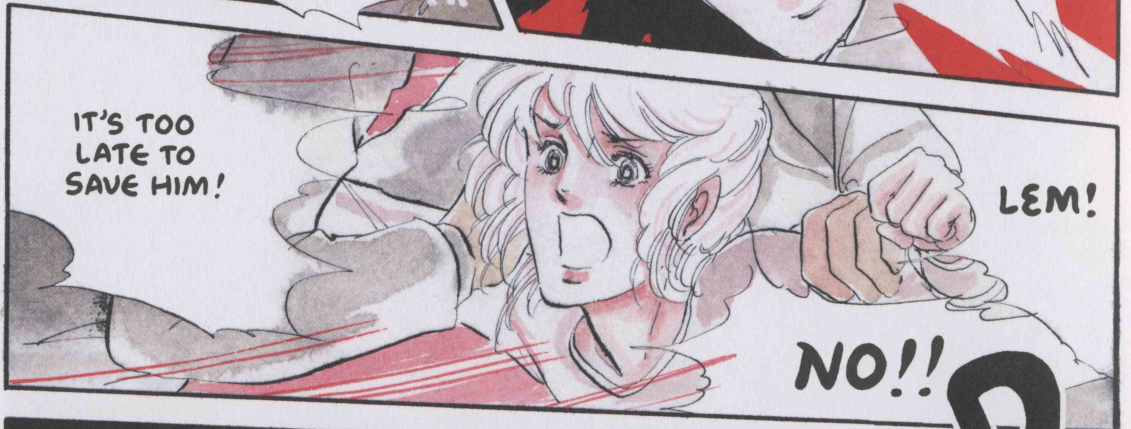
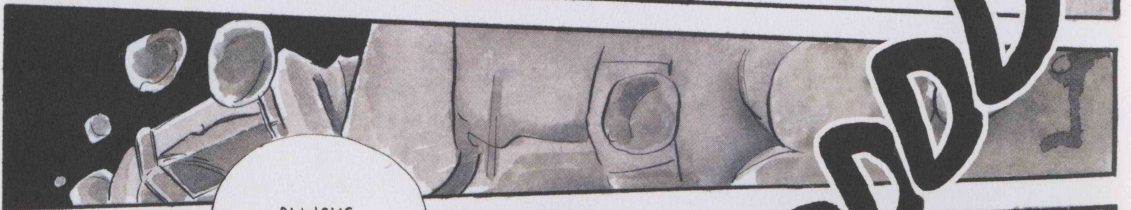
BUT I **HATE** PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF! I DON'T LOVE **ANYBODY!**

I ALWAYS WON-DERED...

ABOUT THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES. THE EYES OF THE GIRL IN THE DREAM ARE ALWAYS SHUT TIGHT.

THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES ...

AH-H...
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING MARRIED AND BEING A HOSTAGE.
PRINCESS PALIO.
THE KING HAS PUT DOWN THE REBELLION AND RETURNED. YOU MUST GREET HIM.
MY HEAD ACHES.
I'M NOT FEELING WELL.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU WERE SENT HERE AS DIPLOMATIC HOSTAGE, YET YOU CAUGHT THE EYE OF THE KING, AND TOMORROW YOU'RE TO BE MARRIED.
YOUR PARENTS IN THE NORTHERN LANDS MUST BE SO RELIEVED. NOW SMILE FOR HIS MAJESTY.
PRINCESS PALIO!
IN THE YEAR I'VE BEEN GONE YOU'VE GROWN MORE LOVELY THAN EVER.
THE TURKISH STONES I'VE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE WEST WILL SUIT YOU WELL.
LET ME SHOW YOU MY SPOILS. WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?
HOW ABOUT SOME OF THESE FINE-LOOKING SLAVES FROM THE WEST?

IT'S HIM! THE MAN FROM MY DREAMS!

MAJ-ESTY. THAT SLAVE THERE. I WANT **HIM**.
THAT'S NO SLAVE! THAT'S MY YOUNGEST BROTHER, WHO JOINED WITH THE WESTERN LANDS AND REBELLED.
TOMORROW, BEFORE OUR WEDDING CEREMONY, HE SHALL BE EXECUTED.
EXE-CUTED
HIM?
NO... **NO**!

KILLED?
HIM?
I'VE DREAMED OF HIM SO LONG. I'VE LOVED HIM SO LONG.

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED...
...THAT ONE DAY I WOULD MEET HIM.

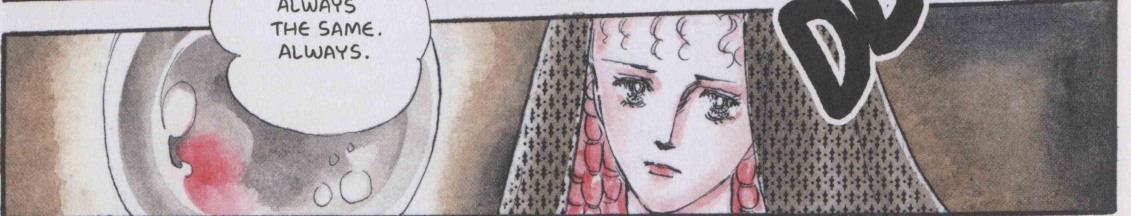
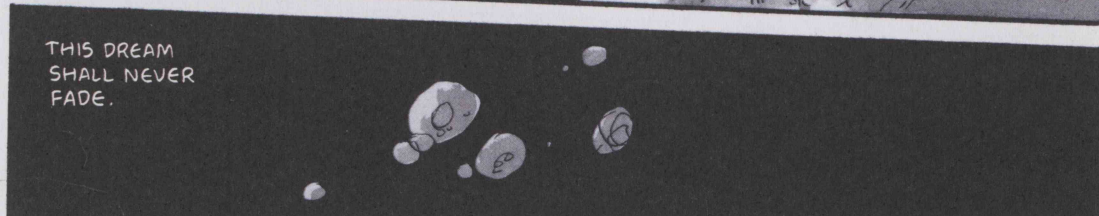
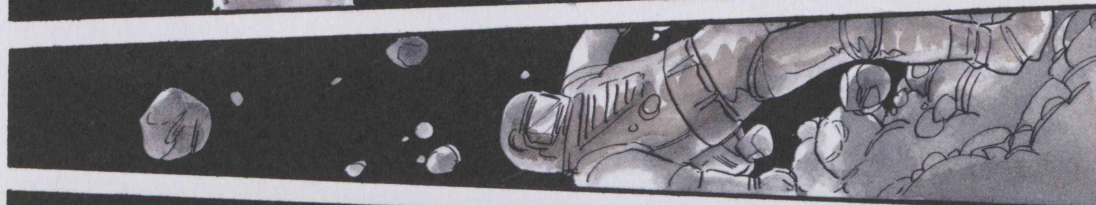
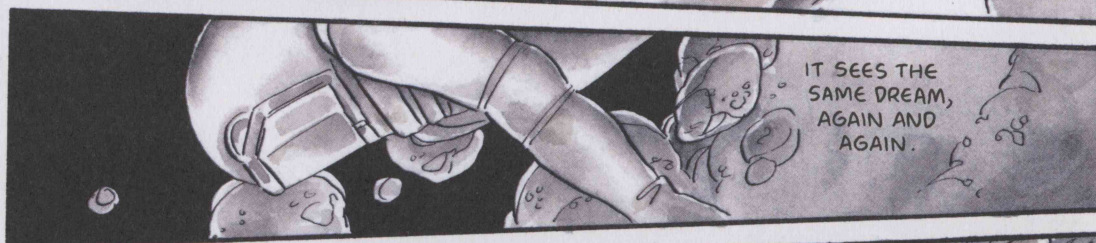
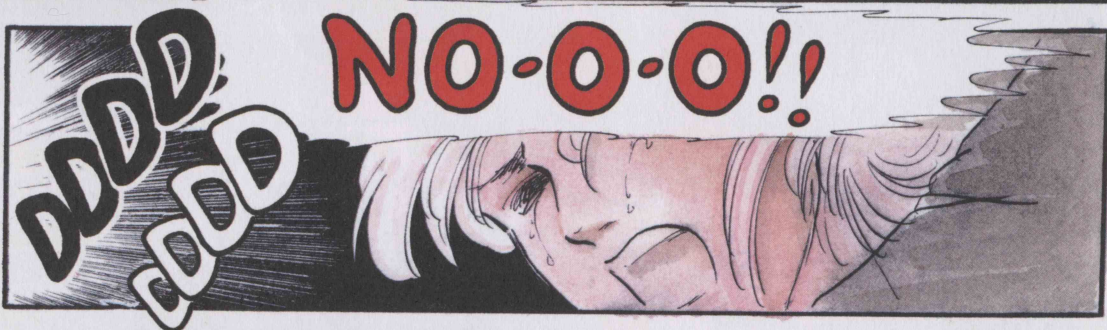
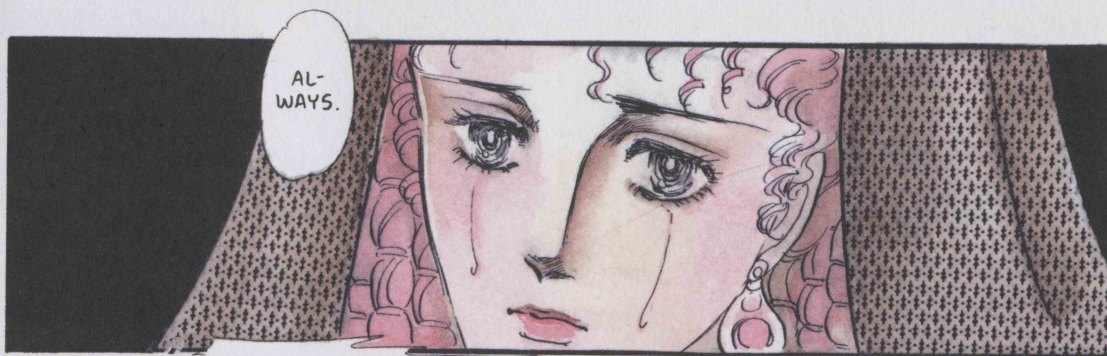
SPARE HIM!
SPARE HIM!!

A PATH OF ESCAPE.
IS THIS ONE OF THE KING'S BOYS? HE WEARS A CRESTED RING.
IS THIS SYMPATHY OR A TRICK?
FPP
SHH ...
!
UNN
...
EYES OF OBSIDIAN.
THEY ARE A MYSTERY. BUT I HAVE NO TIME FOR SOLVING MYSTERIES.
YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME TO ME SOME DAY.
A GIRL?
YOU ...
BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW ME.
I HAVE THOUGHT ONLY OF YOU... BUT YOU KNOW NOTHING OF MY LOVE.
IF THIS TRAITOR IS CAUGHT, HE COULD TELL THEM THE DIRECTION OF MY ESCAPE.
...!
OPEN YOUR EYES.
PLEASE.
COME BACK TO LIFE...
...AND GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY!
NO! THOSE EYES...
LOVE FOR ME?
THOSE OBSIDIAN EYES.
THOSE EYES ARE CLOSING.

I'VE FOUND IT!
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING I HAVE DONE!
HAD I JUST LOOKED INTO THOSE EYES AND BELIEVED ...
WAIT!
YOU MUSTN'T KILL HER.
YOU MUSTN'T CLOSE THOSE EYES.
SHE WILL SLIP INTO DEATH'S DREAM.
STOP!
YOU MUSTN'T ...
ZANN

THAT LOVE SHALL NEVER BE CONSUM-MATED.
YOU SHALL SEE HIM LYING AT YOUR FEET...
...LYING FACE UP DEAD.

IT IS ALWAYS THUS.
ALWAYS THE SAME.
YOU SHALL LOVE ...
...BUT NOTHING SHALL REMAIN BUT SORROW.
THERE SHALL NEVER BE FULFILL-MENT.

DD DDDD
GADAN
TAKE US UP!
NOW!
IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE HIM!
LEM!
NO!!
DDDD
ALWAYS THE SAME. ALWAYS.

AL-
WAYS.

NO-O-O!!
DDDD
DDDD

TIME SEES
THIS SAME
DREAM.

IT SEES THE
SAME DREAM,
AGAIN AND
AGAIN.

THIS DREAM
SHALL NEVER
FADE.

TIME GOES ON WEEPING
...
DRUNKEN, SINGING
AS IT SINKS DOWN
TO THE DEPTHS OF THE DREAM.
END